

61

BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and HOUSING OFFICER

for the year

1970.

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BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

Mayor : Alderman D.P. Bennett

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1970)

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. D.J. Hawkins

Vice-Chairman : Councillor D.O. Benson

Alderman D.M. Miller,            Councillor Dr. I. Hastilow,

Councillor Mrs. E.M. Harris,    Councillor W. Heyes,

Councillor P.D. Preece.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

A. Afnan, M.D., D.P.H., L.A.H., D.L.O. (as from 15.2.71)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

D.E. Forsythe, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Secretary : Mrs. D.M. Redfern

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer :

E.D. Edwards, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Secretary : Mrs. A.M. Boyton



R E P O R T  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year 1970.



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BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

Public Health Department,  
69, High Street,  
Saffron Walden.

October, 1971.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1970, which includes the annual report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. My duties as Medical Officer of Health commenced on the 15th February, 1971.

The population of the district as estimated by the Registrar General was 10,190, the adjusted birth rate is 15.2 and the adjusted death rate is 10.6. There were no stillbirths or deaths in the first week of life.

The deaths most commonly attributed to diseases are of the heart and blood vessels. These occurred in the age groups of 65 and over. In most cases it is part of a general wearing out process affecting other organs too. Deaths from cancer took second place. Many deaths from cancer of the lungs could be saved by never smoking tobacco. Every educational method must be used to prevent children starting to smoke and adults must be encouraged to stop. The Government was right to stop the advertising of cigarettes on television. The policy of the Government should go further, newspapers, periodicals and poster-site proprietors should follow this example. The mathematical connection between lung cancer and cigarettes has been proved beyond reasonable doubt, even if the bio-chemical cause remains mysterious. Cigarettes are dangerous and habit forming.

According to a World Health Organisation report, three-quarters of all cases of cancer could have been prevented if caught in their early stages. Treatment of pre-cancerous lesions is the corner stone of cancer prevention and it is essential that medical practitioners be trained in this subject. Examination of people 30 years of age and over is recommended. The tests should include inspection of entire skin area, urine tests, chest x-rays and in women cervical smears and palpation of the breast.

Periodic routine medical examinations or "Health Checks" are of great value. Their aim is the detection of any deviation from the mental or physical state of the individual. People who consider themselves fit are sometimes found to have abnormalities which, in some instances, have sinister significance. Many sound investigations are





available to screen for incipient diseases - blood counts, urine examinations, x-rays etc., and a satisfactory result can prove very re-assuring. Routine medical examinations of elderly patients can detect nutritional or orthopaedic problems (which are frequent in the aged) and these can be remedied before they cause real trouble. Every effort to ensure periodic routine medical examinations and prevention of disease, especially in groups at risk, is highly rewarding.

Medicine is somewhat in the news nowadays with the main emphasis on the curative side. It is also entertaining in quite a big way if one is to judge some of the television and radio programmes which have a popular appeal.

What a difference it might make if we had a change of emphasis and if some genius of a script-writer could devise a programme of which the background was "Keeping Fit", and if our newspapers, with their tremendous influence, could push the idea that the promotion of healthy national measures was quite the fashion. Fresh air and exercise can be just as effective as sleeping tablets and there will be no hangover the next day. Exercise and well-planned diet are better than amphetamine drugs as weight reducers.

1970 was the year in which much was said and written about pollution. The danger to health from atmospheric pollution is mainly in the incidence of respiratory disease, principally bronchitis. The extreme case in this Country was the London smog of 5th - 8th December, 1952, to which was attributed the deaths of 4,000 persons in 3 weeks and a further 8,000 in the next 3 months. This tragedy led to the appointment of the Beaver Committee in 1953 and the Clean Air Act 1956. There had been previous smog incidents in 1873, 1880, 1891 and 1948, and others in 1956 and 1962, but extreme cases - when life is at risk and public opinion is aroused to the point of demanding action are fortunately rare. With less lethal concentrations of pollutants people who suffer from respiratory diseases are affected so that they have to stay away from work - according to a 1956 Office of Health Economics report, 76 million days were lost in a year due to respiratory diseases and of these some 40 million were attributed to bronchitis. Until recently low sulphur fuels were in short supply and relatively expensive and their compulsory use could hardly be justified economically. This position changed with the discovery of natural gas in the North Sea in quantities estimated to provide approximately 15 per cent of the Country's total energy supplies by 1975. We are fortunate that this new indigenous fuel is of excellent quality and practically free from sulphur. Like U.S.A., Holland and France we shall be able to use natural gases to reduce atmospheric pollution.

Last year 162 typhoid cases were recorded in England and Wales, the highest number since 1963. Three people died of typhoid and three of paratyphoid fever of which there were 193 cases. Three-quarters of the typhoid cases and more than half of the paratyphoid infections were imported, with several outbreaks amongst holiday-makers and other travellers returning from abroad. The vital importance of typhoid



vaccination for people travelling abroad is insufficiently recognized.

Immunization against an increasing number of diseases continues to form a large part of the work of the Public Health Department and at present this is largely concerned with producing immunity against polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, tuberculosis, smallpox, measles and rubella.

Rubella vaccination was introduced last year. Rubella is generally a mild disease with no serious complications. If, however, it is contracted by a woman in the first 3 months of pregnancy there is a 10 - 15% risk that the baby may be born with serious malformations, which includes blindness, deafness, heart disease and mental and physical retardation. During 1969 epidemics in the U.S.A. over 20,000 babies were born with defects due to rubella infections in their mothers. In Britain it has been estimated that about 1,500 women might be expected to contract rubella in an epidemic year. In a non-epidemic year these figures might be about 500. The purpose of the scheme is to give protection against the disease before a pregnancy is likely. Therefore the girls in the 11 to 14 years age group are offered this protection.

May I, in conclusion, express my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their continued interest and support and to Dr. Pearce who acted as Medical Officer of Health and to the Public Health Inspectors and clerical staff for their valuable assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. AFNAN

Medical Officer of Health.





## SECTION A

### PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

#### (1) General Practitioner Services

These are provided by six doctors in four practices based in the Borough :-

Dr. J.H. Bartlett & Dr. R.B. Chalmers, High Street, Tel: 2327  
Dr. Gladys Gray, 67, High Street, Tel: 3683  
Dr. D. MacLeod, 71, High Street, Tel: 2358  
Dr. A.A.Y. Brouet & Dr. C.P. Reynolds, 4, Park Lane, Tel: 2112

There are three dental practices in the town.

#### (2) Hospital Services

These services are provided by hospitals in the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board and the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. The hospitals which serve the Saffron Walden population are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge, Newmarket and Bishop's Stortford.

Certain special facilities are provided as follows :-

Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are admitted to Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases are accommodated at Newmarket General Hospital, Cambridge Maternity Hospital and Herts and Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

Geriatric Units in charge of a Consultant Geriatrician have been established at Chesterton Hospital, Cambridge, and St. James' Hospital Saffron Walden and six beds are reserved for geriatric patients at Saffron Walden General Hospital. Particular attention is paid to rehabilitation.

Chest Clinics serving the Borough are available at Saffron Walden General Hospital and at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinic at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

#### (3) Essex County Council Health Services

All personal health services for the Borough of Saffron Walden are administered on an area basis and come within the West Essex Health Area.

The Area Health Office is situated at Moot House Annexe, The Stow, Harlow, (tel: Harlow 25331) and all correspondence should be addressed to the Area Medical Officer.



## Health Visiting/School Nursing Service

The Health Visitor serving the Borough is Miss E. Jones who is based at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, 69, High Street, Saffron Walden, tel: Saffron Walden 2194.

At the end of the year, one post for a health visitor, which has been vacant for six years, still remained unfilled.

There are at present vacancies for three health visitors in the Saffron Walden districts. Despite repeated advertisements in the local and national press and nursing journals, the response has been poor. There is reason to suppose that difficulty in obtaining housing accommodation to rent may be a deterring factor to experienced health visitors who would otherwise welcome an opportunity to work in a delightful district.

The health visitor, who is a trained nurse holding midwifery and health visitor qualifications, visits persons in their homes and advises in the clinic as to the care of young children - persons suffering from illness - expectant and nursing mothers and the elderly, and as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection and who performs such other duties as may be assigned to her.

In the School Health Service the health visitor is the principal link between the home, the school, the family doctor and other agencies, particularly on matters relating to the health of a child at school. Working within the school as a health educator; carrying out health surveys; special screening tests; and dealing with any outbreak of infection. Making arrangements for school medical inspections and attending these medicals to discuss with the medical officer any relevant medical or social problems concerning the children to be examined.

### District Nurse and Midwifery

The nursing staff carrying out these services and resident in the Borough are :-

District Nurse/Midwives	Miss M.E. Anderson and Mrs. K. Lambert, 37, Gibson Close, Saffron Walden. Tel: 3209
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District Nurse	Mrs. E. Tongue, 27, Landscape View, Saffron Walden. Tel: 3496
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District Nurse P/T	Mrs. P. John, 22, West Road, Saffron Walden. Tel: 7604
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The district nurse/midwives are trained nurses with midwifery qualifications undertaking duties which include the nursing care of patients in their own homes and attending women before, during, and after childbirth.





### Chiropody Service

The Area Chiropodist has provided the following report on the facilities available in Saffron Walden :

"Saffron Walden enjoys the services of a truly dedicated Chiropodist in the person of Mr. Madeley, who is much in demand. He works at the E.C.H.S. Clinic in the Town two sessions weekly; one session monthly at the Stanley Wilson Lodge; and one session six weekly at Hatherly, this last session however, is soon to be extended to one whole day six weekly.

Mr. Madely is not a car driver, but on Thursdays the Hospital Trust takes him out for domiciliary visits, either for a half day, or for a whole day, according to circumstances."

At the time of writing this report, the salary scale for Chiropodists in the service of the Local Health Authority has been improved and it is hoped that this will encourage young chiropodists to enter the service. There is a need for additional chiropodists in the Saffron Walden area, particularly to provide domiciliary treatment.

### Cervical Cytology

A clinic is held at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden, and applications for an appointment should be made direct to the clinic.

### School Health Service

The selective system of medical inspection of pupils continued unchanged and during the year 642 pupils in attendance at schools in the Borough were examined by medical officers of the Local Education Authority.

As in previous years, B.C.G. vaccination was offered to pupils aged 12 years and 274 were vaccinated.

Vaccination against rubella was introduced for the first time in the autumn but as supplies of vaccine were limited, vaccination was offered only to girls in their fourteenth year. (The supply of vaccine has improved and this protection is now being offered to all girls in the age range 11 - 14 years).

### Dental Service

Facilities for the dental inspection and treatment of school children are provided at the clinic at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden. Dental Officers periodically visit schools to carry out dental inspections.

### Ambulance Service

This service is administered directly by the County Medical Officer of Health, 85-89, New London Road, Chelmsford.

There is an ambulance station at Saffron Walden and a day and



night service is provided.

Persons requiring an ambulance in an emergency should dial '999' and ask for an ambulance (where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance).

Non emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person such as a mental welfare officer. Calls should be made to Chelmsford 51131.

#### (4) Laboratory Service

Bacteriological services for the Borough are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, and the Pathology Department, Newmarket General Hospital, Newmarket.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Since preparing this report the Local Authority Health Services Act 1970 which implemented the main recommendations of the Seeborn Report on Local Authority and Allied Personal Social Services has been adopted by the County Council and the Social Services Committee has been established. This Committee has become responsible for the functions previously exercised by the Children's and Welfare Committee of the County Council and three of the services, namely Home Help, Neighbourly Help and Mental Health, which were formerly administered by the Health Committee. The main services for which the Social Services Department are responsible are :-

#### Residential Services

- Homes for the elderly
- Homes for the physically handicapped
- Homes for the adult mentally handicapped
- Homes for the mentally ill
- Children's homes
- Residential nurseries
- Community Schools
- Observation and assessment centres for children
- Hostels for young working people
- Temporary accommodation for homeless families
- Emergency accommodation in disaster

#### Social Work

Social work with children (including fostering and adoption), the elderly, the mentally and physically handicapped, the mentally ill, the blind, the deaf and families at risk.



### Field Support Services

Occupational centres for the physically handicapped  
Training centres for mentally handicapped adults  
Workshops for the mentally ill  
Day nurseries  
Day care in children's homes  
Home help, neighbourly help and night attendance  
Development of services for the elderly  
Practical assistance for the physically handicapped in the home  
Provision of grants for special housing schemes for the  
elderly; to County voluntary organisations; for recognised  
voluntary work in Essex; for meals on wheels  
Caravan sites for gypsies and other itinerant dwellers

The local Area Office is at 39, Audley Road, Saffron Walden,  
tel: Saffron Walden 3169. Mr. A.C. Stuteley is the Area Social Work  
Organiser.





## SECTION B

### STATISTICS

#### 1. GENERAL

Area (acres) .. .. .	7,502
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 1970) .. .. .	10,190
Population Census 1961 .. .. .	8,350
Rateable value (April 1st 1970) .. .. .	£542,268
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (year ended 31.3.70). .. .. .	£2,113.39
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	3,539
Density of Persons per acre . . . . .	1.35
Density of Houses per acre .. .. .	0.47
Average number of occupants per house .. .. .	2.88

#### 2. VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Live Births (total) .. .. .	148
	<u>Males</u> <u>Females</u>
Legitimate .. .. .	68      77
Illegitimate .. .. .	1      2
(b) Live Birth rate per 1,000 population :-	
Crude rate .. .. .	14.5
Adjusted rate (comparability factor 1.05) .. .. .	15.2
Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	16.0
(c) Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .. .. .	2
(d) Stillbirths .. .. .	NIL
Stillbirths rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths .. .. .	NIL
(e) Infant deaths (Deaths under 1 year) .. .. .	NIL
Infant mortality rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) .. .. .	NIL
Infant mortality rate for England & Wales .. .. .	18
Neo-natal mortality rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) .. .. .	NIL
Perinatal mortality rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths) .. .. .	NIL
(f) Maternal mortality .. .. .	NIL
(g) Total deaths all ages .. .. .	163
(h) Death rate per 1,000 population :-	
Crude rate .. .. .	16.0
Adjusted rate (Comparability factor 0.66) .. .. .	10.6
Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	11.7





COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS

	1970	1969	1957	1927
LIVE BIRTHS	No.	173	114	73
	Crude Rate	17.2	15.7	13.3
	Adjusted Rate	18.1	17.2	-
INFANT DEATHS	No.	NIL	3	6
	Rate	NIL	26.3	82.1
MATERNAL DEATHS	No.	NIL	NIL	NIL
	Rate	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL DEATHS	No.	143	125	80
	Crude Rate	14.3	16.8	12.3
	Adjusted Rate	9.7	10.3	-
POPULATION (Estimated mid-year)	10,190	10,030	7,430	5,456

# MORTALITY TABLE.

Cause of Death	Sex	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year.	AGE IN YEARS.										Total All Ages	
				1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 & over	1970	1969	
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	6	
Leukaemia	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	
Other malignant neoplasms	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	1	
Diabetes mellitus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Other endocrine etc. diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Other diseases of nervous system	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	3	
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	2	
Hypertensive disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	
Ischaemic Heart disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	
Other forms of heart disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
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	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
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	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							

Cerebrovascular disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	5
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	8	10
												11
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	8
												3
Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
												-
Pneumonia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	12	17
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	15	21
												16
Bronchitis & emphysema	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	7
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
												-
Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
												1
Other diseases of respiratory system	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
												-
Peptic ulcer	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
												1
Appendicitis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
												-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
												-
Cirrhosis of liver	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
												-
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
												-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
												-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
												-
Symptoms & ill-defined conditions	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
												-
Motor vehicle accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
												-
All other accidents	M	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	5
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
												-
All other external causes	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
												-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	43	77
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	52	86
									9	20		72
									10	19		71



SECTION CPREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES(1) Notifiable Diseases

Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year :

Disease	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 60	Over 60
Shigella Sonnei . ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles .. ..	130	2	4	14	10	20	79	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning .. ..	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	24

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Shigella Sonnei . ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles .. ..	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	8	4	25	56	27
Food Poisoning .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29





SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the following report :-

(1) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The existing sewage disposal works has continued to function reasonably and of the samples of effluent analysed by the Great Ouse River Authority one was satisfactory but the remaining four were unsatisfactory in varying degrees.

The small disposal plants at the Dreys, Swards End and Petlands, Little Walden have continued to operate satisfactorily. Some residents in Swards End continue to experience difficulty due to inadequate soakaway of septic tank effluent in the clay subsoil under wet conditions.

In November the Ministry of Housing and Local Government held a Public Inquiry into the Council's proposed sewerage and sewage disposal scheme regarding (a) application for consent to borrow £625,000 (amended to £855,000 at the Inquiry), (b) a compulsory purchase order for the site of the sewage disposal works at North End, Littlebury and (c) an appeal against refusal of planning permission for the sewage works site. The Minister's decision had not been received by the end of the year.

Due to the overloaded conditions at the sewage disposal works and the fact that parts of the Borough will not have main sewerage until the new scheme is completed the Local Planning Authority have refused several applications for planning permission for residential development on the advice of the Great Ouse River Authority.

(2) Public Baths

A high standard of water purification has been maintained at the Council's indoor swimming pool and the pool continues to be well used.

The County Education Department continue to employ their instructor and although the Department curtailed their programme for the use of the pool during the winter months, a number of schools made their own arrangements and continued their visits.

The demand for slipper baths remains at a very low level.

(3) Water Supply.

Through-out the district the standard of mains water for domestic purposes has been maintained at a high level as regards quality. The supply has been satisfactory at all times.

Number of dwellinghouses and population served -

(a) Direct to houses	- 3,523 houses	Population 10,156
(b) By means of standpipes	- 16 houses	Population 34

Total population served - 10,190





R E P O R T  
of the  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
For the Year 1970.



REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1970.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my sixteenth Annual Report which gives details of the work and duties carried out by myself or on my instructions during the year 1970.

It is regretted that due to the day to day essential tasks of public health and housing, little progress was made with inspections of a routine nature. This trend will be halted, and reversed, when an additional Public Health Inspector commences duties on 1st April, 1971.

There is, at a worldwide level, a growing awareness of the manner in which man in his progress and way of life is detracting from and damaging the environment in which he lives. Grave concern has been expressed regarding environmental problems which may result in the years to come. To the individual these problems may appear to be beyond his or her personal control but this is not always so. Some damage to the environment can be attributed to lack of thought and care for the well-being and enjoyment of the environment by others.

I have in mind two matters in particular which although not always within the control of the local authority are the cause for concern. Matters which may appear to be of small significance when compared with environmental problems of the day yet the cause of distress and irritation to many people.

One is the burning of garden waste as is referred to on Page 6 of my report. Some garden waste cannot be readily composted but if it must be burned I have suggested certain precautions which will do much to reduce the risk of inconvenience and possible nuisance to others.

The other matter is the fouling of paths, verges, open-spaces, playgrounds, etc. by dogs. It is seldom realised that a dog may be infested with parasites which are transmissible and harmful to man, and that the dog may also harbour certain food poisoning bacteria. The risk of infection is the greater in the case of children as the places on which they play are often the places walked over by the dog and owner. Young children tend to always be touching their mouths and if they or their clothing are contaminated with infected dog faeces so infection of the child is likely.

Both matters referred to are usually accepted as commonplace and it is no doubt because of this few people appear to realise the harm they may be causing. Education and publicity would seem to be the answer and I can but hope my reference to these matters will help towards this object.

This Annual Report provides me with the opportunity to express



to the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors my grateful thanks for their support and interest during the year. My thanks are again due to Dr. J.A. Slattery and his Secretary at the Clinic, and to all officers and staff at the Municipal Offices, for their ready co-operation and assistance at all times.

I am Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

E.D. EDWARDS

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer.



# REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER.

Summary of Visits and Inspections recorded during the Year :-

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED .. .. . 36

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED .. .. . 1004

## Public Health.

Public Health Act .. .. . 70

Re-inspections .. .. . 47

Premises affected with insect pests .. .. . 4

Drainage and conservancy .. .. . 11

Smoke abatement : Visits .. .. . 10

Observations .. .. . 3

Noise Abatement .. .. . 10

Moveable Dwellings .. .. . 1

Miscellaneous .. .. . 62

## Housing.

Housing Act .. .. . 7

Miscellaneous .. .. . 7

## Water Supply.

Visits re: Water Sampling . .. . 68

## Food & Drugs Act.

Meat Inspections at Slaughterhouses .. .. . 322

Inspection of Food and visits regarding soundness of same .. .. . 27

Inspections of Food Premises .. .. . 14

Inspections of Slaughterhouses .. .. . 11

Inspections of Market Stalls and Vehicles .. .. . 19

## Infectious Disease.

Enquiries .. .. . 3

Re-visits .. .. . 10

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act : Inspections . .. . 2

Visits .. .. . 3

Accident Investigations .. .. . 3

Rodent Control .. .. . 12

Animal Boarding Establishments Act .. .. . 1

Visits in connection with :-

Applications for Council accommodation .. .. . 42

Tenancies of Council accommodation .. .. . 235







## ACTION UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Informal notices served which required the remedy of :-

i. defects at dwellinghouses .	..	..	..	..	10
ii. defective drainage systems	..	..	..	..	3
iii. nuisance caused by accumulations of offensive matter, animals or effluvia	..	..	..	..	5

Informal notices complied with in respect of :-

i. defects at dwellinghouses .	..	..	..	..	9
ii. defective drainage systems	..	..	..	..	5
iii. nuisance caused by accumulations of offensive matter, animals or effluvia	..	..	..	..	6

It was not necessary to serve any formal notices during the year.

The owner of the dwellinghouse, No.51, Gold Street, failed to comply with an Abatement Notice served on him during 1969, requiring the abatement of nuisance at the house caused by a defective roof. Application was made to the Magistrates' Court for a Nuisance Order. The Magistrates made an Order requiring the necessary work to be carried out by the owner within Two months and awarded £10.10.0d. costs in favour of the Council. As the owner did not comply with the Nuisance Order the work was carried out in default of the owner by the Council. The cost of this work was later recovered from the owner.

Details of defects and nuisances remedied are listed on Page 19 of this Report.

## THE CONTROL OF INSECT PESTS.

Several wasps nests were destroyed during the year and, where these occurred in or about domestic or business properties, were charged for at 10s.0d. for each treatment. A few nests were also destroyed on roadside verges and similar public property.

Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining effective control of the Furniture Mite in one room of a modern house. This mite is believed to feed on surface growing fungi in damp, ill-ventilated rooms. The room was subject to dampness due to moderately severe condensation and work was later carried out to alleviate this dampness. Several methods of control were tried but success was only achieved when the wall to wall carpet was treated with a residual insecticide. The occupier had been warned the light-coloured carpet could be stained by the kerosene base of the insecticide but fortunately these fears proved groundless.

One house was also treated for 'Woolly Bears', the larvae of Carpet Beetles.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE ENQUIRIES AND CONTROL.

Two separate cases of Sonne dysentery were investigated.

One concerned an adult who apparently contracted this disease when visiting relatives in another county. The other case concerned two children who moved to this district from Scotland while suffering from dysentery. The normal precautions and control measures were successfully adopted and no further cases occurred.

25 residents and 4 staff at residential type premises were notified as suffering from food poisoning. Other staff at the premises undertook the main work of the investigation and the conclusions reached were :-

- a. the cause of the illness was due to *Clostridium Welchii*;
- b. the source of this bacillus was roast pork;
- c. the rapid growth and multiplication of the bacilli in the roast pork was due to the pork being partly cooked one day and then completion of cooking carried out the next day. Being moderately large joints insufficient heat was obtained within the meat on the first cooking to ensure destruction of bacteria present in the meat. The intervening period between first and second cooking, and the method of storing, was such that toxins were readily produced by the bacilli.
- d. the same servers were used for serving alternative dishes to those few persons who did not eat the pork but who subsequently suffered from food poisoning.

The outbreak was aptly commented upon by the Public Health Laboratory :- "this is a classical Cl. Welchii type of food-poisoning outbreak".

The outbreak occurred on premises where the level of food hygiene is normally good and where, so it was stated, clearly given verbal instructions were passed to the cook on many occasions that meat must not be pre-cooked.

Without doubt the lesson has now been learnt. Regrettably it was learned the hard way and many people suffered from acute discomfort due to a variation in the elementary precautions concerning the preparation of meat and meat dishes.





## ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

### Repair of Dwellings.

It was not necessary to take action under these Acts to secure the repair of any dwellings which appeared to be unfit for human habitation. There were no notices outstanding from the previous year.

### Demolition, closure etc., of unfit houses.

No.8, New Road, vacant and subject to a Closing Order, was demolished.

### Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were recorded during the year or were known to exist.

### Qualification Certificates.

Part III of the Housing Act, 1969, introduced a new system governing rents of privately rented dwellings which have been brought up to a satisfactory standard. The chief responsibility of the local authority in relation to these rent provisions is to deal with applications for certificates relating to the state of the dwelling where it is let on a controlled tenancy.

The requirements are that the dwelling has, or will have, all the standard amenities for the exclusive use of the occupants, that it is in good repair having regard to its age, character and locality and disregarding internal decorative repair, and that it is otherwise fit for human habitation.

A provisional approval of issue of a Qualification Certificate can be issued in the case of a dwelling which is provided with some or all of the standard amenities after the commencement of the Act and will meet the other requirements when the necessary work is completed. A Qualification Certificate is then issued when all the requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

A Qualification Certificate can be issued in the case of a dwelling which has all the standard amenities at the commencement of the Act and meets the other requirements.

A summary of the work carried out during the year is as follows :-

#### Applications for Provisional Approval.

i. Number received ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
ii. Approvals issued .	..	..	..	..	..	3
iii. Subsequently replaced by Qualification Certificates						NIL

# THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

HENRY THE FIRST

BY

JOHN GILBERT FROTHINGHAM

ESQ.

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### Applications for Qualification Certificates.

i. Number received .	..	..	9 (decisions pending at end
ii. Certificates issued ..	..	NIL	of year).
iii. Certificates refused ..	..	NIL	

### General.

10 Council Dwellings (Old Peoples' Flats) and 21 Private Dwellings were erected and completed. At the end of the year there were approximately 3,539 occupied dwellings of all types.

### FACTORIES and OUTWORKERS.

No inspections were made of premises registered as factories.

6 persons were registered as outworkers.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961, are given on Pages 20 & 21 of this Report.

### NOISE ABATEMENT.

3 separate complaints were received of nuisance from noise and all concerned noise from industrial machinery.

On investigation one complaint was considered not to be justified.

After several visits in another case it was confirmed the alleged nuisance did not persist and had been of a temporary nature only, no action was necessary.

The remaining complaint concerned noise from wood sawing and planing machinery and its effect on persons working in nearby offices. On investigation it was found the structure of the building would normally contain and reduce the emission of noise from machinery within but this advantage was lost by the emission of noise through a single-glazed window facing the offices from which the complaint originated. It was suggested this window be double-glazed for sound insulation to which the occupier of the building agreed. Double-glazing with an internal air space of 4 inches was installed and the emission of noise reduced to a reasonable level. A larger air space between the two sheets of glass is preferable but was not practicable in this particular case.



## CLEAN AIR.

6 complaints were received of smoke nuisance and all concerned the burning of rubbish or waste in the open without any form of apparatus to ensure smoke-free combustion.

In one case nuisance was caused by the regular burning of wood-waste at a factory. The occupiers were requested to either install an incinerator capable of burning the waste without smoke and air-borne ash, or remove the waste in bulk for disposal elsewhere. This matter had not been resolved at the end of the year.

Another instance was the burning of paper and cardboard waste at the rear of shop premises. This was discontinued forthwith.

The remaining cases concerned the burning of garden and similar waste at the rear of six different dwellinghouses. These were satisfactorily dealt with informally.

It is appreciated that some garden waste is more easily burned than composted but unless great care is taken these slow burning fires can produce smoke and smell for several hours, causing inconvenience and possible nuisance to other residents. So many householders overlook the simple precautions which will reduce the risk of inconvenience to others. It is usually recommended the waste be as dry as possible prior to burning and it then be burned at dusk and during the hours of darkness. As a result the refuse burns more readily with less smoke, neighbours are not in their gardens, have taken in washing and are more inclined to shut windows.

### Clean Air Act, 1956, Section 3.

Three notifications of proposals to install furnaces were received and prior approval of the plant requested. All were approved as being capable of burning continuously without emitting smoke.

### Clean Air Act, 1968. Section 6.

One application for approval of the height of a chimney serving a furnace was received and approved.

### National Survey of Air Pollution.

The apparatus for the daily measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide, first put into operation as from 29th October, 1963, continued in use. The information provided is of greatest value in connection with the national survey of air pollution but by way of local interest I detail overleaf the average daily measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide in



Saffron Walden during the first three months of the years 1964 to 1970.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Population.</u>	<u>Smoke.</u>	<u>Sulphur Dioxide.</u>
1964.	8,650	104	95
1965.	8,910	63	86
1966.	9,150	60	87
1967.	9,410	43	96
1968.	9,930	46	84
1969.	10,030	36	109
1970.	10,500	43	89

NOTE: Concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide expressed in microgrammes per cubic metre.

Levels of smoke concentrations for 1970 can be classed as average when compared with recent measurements. The concentration of sulphur dioxide shows a marked decrease after the unexplained large increase the year before. It is considered these measurements are satisfactory, particularly as the mean temperatures were below average during two of the months referred to which would lead to a greater use of fuels.

I have again compared measurements taken in Saffron Walden to those taken at certain other towns picked at random in various parts of the country. These measurements are shown on Page 22 and are the average daily measurement during the first three months of 1970.







THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

TABLE "A"  
REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Class of Premises.	Number of premises newly registered during the year 1970.	Total number of registered premises at end of 1970.	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year 1970.
Offices .. .. .	1	67	-
Retail Shops .. .. .	-	91	5
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	-	3	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens .. ..	2	7	-
Fuel storage depots .. .. .	-	2	-
TOTALS	3	170	5

TABLE "B"

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES	8
--	---

TABLE "C"  
ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR.

CLASS OF WORKPLACE.	Number of persons employed.
Offices .. .. .	376
Retail shops .. .. .	430
Wholesale departments, warehouses .. .. .	52
Catering establishments open to the public .. .. .	37
Canteens . .. .	3
Fuel storage depots .. .. .	5
Total	903
Total Males	443
Total Females	460



TABLE "D"  
EXEMPTIONS.

Part I	Space (Section 5 (2))	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Part II	Temperature (Section 6)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Part III	Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Part IV	Washing Facilities (Section 10 (1))	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

TABLE "E"  
PROSECUTIONS.

Prosecutions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
--------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

TABLE "F"  
STAFF.

Number of inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil



THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Registration and Inspection.

3 new premises were registered and 9 discontinued, 7 of these being retail shops. The total persons employed in registered premises decreased to 903 as compared to 937 the year before.

Due to the pressure of other duties only 5 premises were inspected. One contravention of the Act was recorded during the year and consisted of a defective and dangerous staircase in retail premises.

Accidents.

Three accidents were notified and in each case the injury was caused by a fall. All accidents were investigated but the employers could not be considered negligent or to have fore-seen the accident.





# FOOD PREMISES and FOOD INSPECTION.

There are 89 premises within the Borough and particulars requested in connection with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, are shown below -

Type of food premises.	Number.	Premises which comply with Regulation 16 (Provision of wash-hand basins).	Premises to which Regulation 19 applies (Provision of sinks for washing food and equipment).	Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19.
Restaurants and cafes	8	8	8	8
School and factory canteens	10	10	10	10
Hotels & Licensed Premises	19	19	19	19
Butchers	5	5	5	5
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Bakers & confectioners shops	3	3	3	3
Wet fish shops	2	2	2	2
Wet & fried fish shops	2	2	2	2
Fried fish shops	1	1	1	1
Grocers	11	11	7	7
General stores	13	13	7	6
Sweet shops	8	8	-	-
Greengrocers	5	5	4	4



11 food premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed or preserved food.

A total of 43 premises are registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the sale and storage of ice-cream or similar commodity. One registration was cancelled when the premises came vacant. No ice-cream is manufactured in the Borough.

An average of 21 food vehicles (other than delivery vans) and stalls operate in the borough. The types are as follows :-

Mobile butchers shops .. .. .	2
Fish Stalls .. .. .	1
Mobile Fish and Chip Fryers .. .. .	1
Sweet Stalls .. .. .	2
Fruit and Vegetable stalls .. .. .	10
Ice-cream vehicles .. .. .	5

Food premises were inspected as and when possible and the general standard continued to be satisfactory. 1 informal notice was served in connection with a minor contravention of the hygiene regulations.

14 inspections of food premises and 19 inspections of food stalls and delivery vehicles were recorded during the year.

#### Food Inspection.

19 visits were made for the purpose of examining various foodstuffs to determine whether or not they were fit for human consumption. In all cases the food was surrendered voluntarily and subsequently destroyed.

The types and quantities of food surrendered were as follows :-

<u>Canned Food.</u>		<u>Other.</u>	
Ham	264 lbs.	Meat	330 lbs.
Meat	224 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Biscuits & Confectionery	247 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Fruit & Fruit Juices	203 lbs.	Flour, Bread, Cereals	195 lbs.
Vegetables	118 lbs.	Frozen Vegetables	154 lbs.
Soup	1 lb.	Fruit	122 lbs.
		Vegetables	121 lbs.
		Cheese	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
		Misc. food seasonings	101 lbs.
		Sugar and syrup	93 lbs.
		Fish	53 lbs.
		Poultry	50 lbs.
		Butter, Lard etc.	46 lbs.
		Frozen kidneys	36 lbs.
		Ham	30 lbs.
		Mincemeat	28 lbs.
		Bacon	20 lbs.
		Frozen liver	10 lbs.
Frozen Foods to the value		Eggs	45 dozen
of £413.18. 7d.		Ice-cream	10 gallons
		Cream	1 quart



The unusually large and varied list of foods surrendered arose mainly from smoke and water damage resulting from the disastrous fire at the Rose & Crown Hotel. The rejection of frozen foods arose from the breakdown of refrigerated display cabinets in grocery and provision shops, in one instance the retail value of the food surrendered was £375. 15. 3d.

8 other visits were made concerning the fitness of food for human consumption or in response to complaints with regard to food.

A total of 5 complaints were received concerning the suitability of foodstuffs purchased by customers and there was justification for complaint in 3 cases. On investigation the causes of complaints were as follows :-

1. Unsound meat pie due to poor stock rotation. The retailer concerned at first claimed this not to be possible but after consultation with the manufacturers and identification of code markings he realised he was at fault.
2. Poor keeping quality of fresh minced beef - stale after storage in domestic refrigerator for two days. The views of various local butchers were obtained as to what they considered was a reasonable life for such meat. The views offered were that the minced beef be cooked the same day of purchase (and freshly minced) or no later than the following day if kept in a refrigerator. The short life of such beef may not be appreciated by all customers.
3. Mould on cut and wrapped loaf one day after delivery to retailer. This complaint arose at a particularly warm period of the year and was attributed to inadequate cooling of the bread at the bakery and condensation inside the wrapper.
4. Wholemeal loaf containing a 'beetle'. This object was later proved to be part of a grain, surrounding bracts and attached stalk of the Wild Oat. The wholemeal flour was produced by a coarse milling process and could not be passed through a sieve, as is standard bakery practice, as some of the essential particles constituting wholemeal flour would be removed.
5. Bread roll containing a yellow substance. This complaint was referred to Essex County Council for any action they thought fit in accordance with their greater powers under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.







## MEAT INSPECTION.

The numbers of animals slaughtered for food in the Borough were much the same as recent years.

Comparative figures are as follows :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1961.	706	2234	1127	23	4090
1963.	763	2617	1101	10	4491
1965.	732	2863	793	2	4390
1967.	665	2527	755	3	3950
1968.	529	2483	613	-	3625
1969.	581.	2538	377	-	3496
1970.	611	2651	498	4	3764

Every animal slaughtered at either of the two slaughterhouses was inspected as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. The charges for meat inspection as permitted by the Regulations produced the sum of £189. 4. 9d.

The number of animals where part of the carcase or offal was rejected as being unfit for human consumption was much the same as previous years. In the majority of cases the cause of rejection was due to a parasitic affection making it necessary for the affected organ to be rejected in total or in part. Such localised affections seldom had any deleterious effect on the remaining organs or carcase meat which were released for human consumption.

The amounts of meat and offal rejected are shown below and represent only a very minute proportion of the carcase meat and offal released for human consumption :-

1961.	1 ton.	7 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1963.	1 ton.	10 cwts.	3 qrs.	23 lbs.
1965.	1 ton.	4 cwts.	1 qr.	15 lbs.
1967.	1 ton.	13 cwts.	3 qrs.	9 lbs.
1968.	1 ton.	10 cwts.	1 qr.	27 lbs.
1969.	1 ton.	8 cwts.	2 qrs.	15 lbs.
1970.	1 ton.	15 cwts.	0 qrs.	1 lb.

### Slaughterhouse Facilities.

Conditions at both slaughterhouses continued to be satisfactory and minor repairs and improvements were carried out at both premises.

### General.

The work of meat inspection continued smoothly with the ready co-operation and help of management and staff at both slaughterhouses as during previous years.

Some meat inspection continued to be necessary outside normal working hours and a visit to one slaughterhouse is made late on every Saturday afternoon for approximately one hour.

322 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection.



A summary of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part is given on Page 23 of this Report.

The thanks of the Council and myself are again due to the Public Health Inspectors of Saffron Walden Rural District Council for deputising during my leave of absence and carrying out meat inspection and other duties on my behalf.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

#### Main supplies.

The routine sampling for bacteriological examination of the mains water supplies provided by the Lee Valley Water Company was carried out at regular intervals during the year. Samples were collected from various points in the Borough in order to ensure results were representative of the Borough as a whole. All samples for bacteriological analysis were completely satisfactory.

#### Well supplies.

The use of the one remaining well for domestic water supply was discontinued when the property became vacant.

#### Swimming Bath.

Samples from the Municipal Swimming Bath were highly satisfactory and comparable to water direct from the main supply.

#### Summary of samples collected for bacteriological examination.

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Main supply - Town Area	27	27	Nil
Main supply - Swards End	12	12	Nil
Main supply - Audley End Village	12	12	Nil
Main supply - Little Walden	11	11	Nil
Main supply - Other parts of Borough	2	2	Nil
Municipal Swimming Bath	4	4	Nil



### RODENT CONTROL.

The number of rat infestations notified or found on routine survey for rats was much the same as for recent years. Control in the main was by the use of Warfarin but zinc phosphide was also used for control at the refuse tip, sewage works and certain ditches. The greater majority of infestations were on the edge of the Town or in and around the three villages in the Borough.

The number of mouse infestations had increased threefold during 1969 and the same level of infestation continued during 1970. This trend has been noted in other districts. Mice are more difficult to control than rats but good results were obtained by using a bait containing Alphachloralose. A stock of alternative bait is kept for those very few cases where difficulty is experienced with the effective control of mice or rats.

The Council's refuse tip off Thaxted Road was filled and its use discontinued during March, 1970. It was inspected at regular intervals but there was little evidence of rats. Refuse is now disposed of at a tip outside the Borough.

As a result of notification or routine survey a total of 187 premises or land areas were found to be infested with rats and 27 with mice.

A routine treatment of the Town sewers was carried out during December, bait being laid in 86 inspection chambers at various points over the whole sewered area. Only 6 manholes showed takes of bait.

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## HOUSING APPLICATIONS and TENANCIES.

The number of new applications for Council accommodation was 74 as compared with 86 in the previous year.

A summary of applications outstanding at the end of the year is as follows :-

Applications from :

Single persons .. .. .	10	(12)
Single elderly persons .. .. .	25	(38)
Married elderly couples &c. . . . .	39	(48)
Married couples with :		
No children .. .. .	52	(45)
One child .. .. .	50	(47)
Two children (same sex) .. .. .	22	(28)
Two children (opposite sex) .. .. .	24	(23)
Three children (same sex) .. .. .	-	(-)
Three children (opposite sexes) .. .. .	9	(9)
Four children (same sex) . . . . .	3	(2)
Four children (opposite sexes) . . . . .	5	(3)
Five children (same sex) . . . . .	-	(-)
Five children (opposite sexes) . . . . .	4	(3)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total applicants	243	(258)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(Figures in brackets refer to 1969).

89 names were withdrawn from the list of applicants for the following reasons :-

Purchased own houses .. .. .	2
Found other accommodation . . . . .	7
Removed from District .. .. .	10
No longer eligible .. .. .	25
Granted tenancies .. .. .	34
Miscellaneous reasons .. .. .	11

The remaining 10 flats at Bromfield were completed and occupied during the year and 26 existing dwellings came vacant.

The reasons for the existing dwellings coming vacant are as follows :-

Left District .. .. .	7
Through old age, illness or death .. .. .	8
Tenants who obtained other accommodation .. .. .	1
Tenants who purchased own accommodation .. .. .	2
Tenants transferred to other Council accommodation	8



Council accommodation occupied during the year was as follows :-

	<u>Families.</u>
New accommodation let for the first time :	
(a) to applicants .. .. .	8
(b) to applicants displaced from condemned houses	-
(c) to transferred Council tenants .. ..	2
Existing accommodation let :	
(a) to applicants .. .. .	22
(b) to Council staff .. .. .	1
(c) to families displaced from condemned houses	-
(d) to transferred Council tenants .. ..	16
Tenants allowed to change tenancies with :	
(a) tenants of other local authorities . ..	-
(b) other tenants of the Council . .. .	-
	<hr/>
New Tenancies	49
	<hr/>

Council owned accommodation at the end of the year consisted of the following :-

	<u>Pre-war.</u>	<u>Post-war.</u>
4 bedroom houses	2	22
3 bedroom houses	158	422
2 bedroom houses	8	22
2 bedroom flats	-	44
2 bedroom Arcon bungalows	-	20
Bed-sitting room flats	16	-
<u>For elderly persons.</u>		
2 bedroom flats	-	42
2 bedroom bungalows	-	8
1 bedroom bungalows	-	2
1 bedroom flats	-	54
Bed-sitting room flats	-	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	184 pre-war dwellings.	642 post-war dwellings.
	<hr/>	<hr/>

42 visits were made in connection with housing applications and 235 visits in connection with matters affecting Council tenancies.



DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES ABATED.

(Does not include noise and smoke nuisances).

General.

Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	5
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Drainage.

Drainage systems repaired or improved	..	..	..	5
Water-closets repaired, improved or re-constructed	..			2

Repairs to Dwellinghouses.

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Staircases and floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dampness remedied - rooms	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Doors and windows repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Fireplaces and chimneys repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
External walls repaired - dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	1





FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sect. 1,2,3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority.	NIL	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	60	-	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	62	NIL	NIL	NIL

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL



Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134).

Section 133.

Number of out-workers in August  
list required by Section 133 (1)(c)

Number of cases of default in  
sending lists to Council

Number of prosecutions for  
failure to supply lists

Section 134.

Number of instances of work  
in unwholesome premises

Notices served

Prosecutions

Nature of Work.		
Wearing Apparel.		Cosaques, Christmas Stockings, etc.
Making etc.	Cleaning & washing.	
2	-	4
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-



Average daily measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide taken at Saffron Walden and other localities during the period January, February & March, 1970.

CONCENTRATIONS OF SMOKE and  $SO_2$  EXPRESSED IN MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE.

SITE	POPULATION (thousands)	NATIONAL SURVEY CLASSIFICATION FOR SITE OF INSTRUMENT.	SMOKE	SULPHUR DIOXIDE.
Saffron Walden	10.5	Small town centre, limited commercial area mixed with old residential housing and possibly minor industry.	43 (36)	89 (109)
Town, Greater London (North)	13.7	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	50 (65)	33 (40)
Town, Hertfordshire.	21.2	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	58 (56)	89 (95)
Town, Buckinghamshire.	36.7	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	58 (88)	101 (112)
Town, Kent.	67.4	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	56 (56)	68 (137)

The figures in brackets are the average daily measurements for the same period during 1969 in the localities listed.





MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	611	Nil	4	498	2651	Nil
Number inspected	611	Nil	4	498	2651	Nil
<u>All diseases and conditions except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	135	Nil	1	15	404	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease or a condition other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	22.1%	Nil	25.0%	3.0%	15.4%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	41	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.5%	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Table 1. Summary of the results of the experiments.

Experiment	Condition	Mean	SD	Significance
1	Control	1.2	0.5	0.001
	Low	1.5	0.6	
	High	1.8	0.7	
	Very High	2.1	0.8	
2	Control	1.1	0.4	0.002
	Low	1.4	0.5	
	High	1.7	0.6	
	Very High	2.0	0.7	
3	Control	1.3	0.6	0.003
	Low	1.6	0.7	
	High	1.9	0.8	
	Very High	2.2	0.9	
4	Control	1.4	0.7	0.004
	Low	1.7	0.8	
	High	2.0	0.9	
	Very High	2.3	1.0	
5	Control	1.5	0.8	0.005
	Low	1.8	0.9	
	High	2.1	1.0	
	Very High	2.4	1.1	
6	Control	1.6	0.9	0.006
	Low	1.9	1.0	
	High	2.2	1.1	
	Very High	2.5	1.2	
7	Control	1.7	1.0	0.007
	Low	2.0	1.1	
	High	2.3	1.2	
	Very High	2.6	1.3	
8	Control	1.8	1.1	0.008
	Low	2.1	1.2	
	High	2.4	1.3	
	Very High	2.7	1.4	
9	Control	1.9	1.2	0.009
	Low	2.2	1.3	
	High	2.5	1.4	
	Very High	2.8	1.5	
10	Control	2.0	1.3	0.010
	Low	2.3	1.4	
	High	2.6	1.5	
	Very High	2.9	1.6	



